

2643 Greenbriar Lane  
Annapolis, MD 21401-4423

January 11, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

This letter is in support of Microsoft's settlement of its antitrust case with the federal government. Microsoft is a good corporate citizen. Microsoft's willingness to settle rather than expose the taxpayers to a lengthy and very costly trial should be commended, not condemned.

Microsoft's willingness to license its Windows operating system products to the 20 largest computer makers (who collectively account for the great majority of PC sales) on identical terms and conditions, including price, grant computer makers broad new rights to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft software programs that compete with programs included within Windows, and not to retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in its Windows operating system is extremely reasonable.

Microsoft's agreement does more for consumers than most of its competitors would have been willing to do. This settlement should be accepted so the consumers can continue to benefit from Microsoft's software innovations.

Sincerely,

  
Lillian Armstrong